

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

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P R 120825Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2998
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3590

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 3584, DTG 120857Z MAR 76

1. WHEN MILLER AND I CALLED ON SECDEF ENRILE AFTERNOON MARCH 12, WE FOUND HIM CONSIDERABLY LESS DEFINITIVE ABOUT HIS PROSPECTIVE ROLE IN MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAN ROMULO HAD BEEN. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM "JUST THIS MORNING" FROM ROMULO NAMING HIM A MEMBER OF PHIL DELEGATION FOR APRIL 12 TALKS AND INDICATING THAT HE SHOULD CONDUCT THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST NOTICE ON THIS SUBJECT AND HE HAD NO RPT NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT. HIS FIRST REACTION WAS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS, NOT THE SECDEF. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF PRESIDENT WANTED IT THAT WAY, HE WOULD OF COURSE DO WHAT PRESIDENT WANTED.

3. HE WAS EVEN SOMEWHAT RESERVED ABOUT GOING TO WASHINGTON "JUST FOR A MEETING THAT WILL LAST A FEW HOURS," BUT ULTIMATELY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY GO SINCE HE HADN'T BEEN THERE IN SOME TIME.
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4. MILLER AND I LUNCHED WITH FORMER FONSEC PELAEZ, WHO WAS, AS USUAL, COMPLETELY IN THE DARK AND DID NOT EVEN KNOW HE WAS INCLUDED ON WASHINGTON DELEGATION. HE SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE NEWS AND WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

5. COMMENT: THIS RATHER TYPICAL EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

MAY

TAKE SOME TIME TO SORT OUT AND IT SEEMS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT ENRILE WILL BE THE NEGOTIATOR. NEVERTHELESS, I DOUBT ROMULO WOULD HAVE GONE AS FAR AS HE HAS WITH ME OR IN THE MEMORANDUM HE HAS SENT ENRILE WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT'S BLESSING. MARCOS WOULD CLEARLY HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN ENRILE THAN IN PELAEZ AS HIS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR. SULLIVAN

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